

(An empty stage. The only set piece is a metal lawn chair. The other characters appear on stage in pools of light some with selected small hand props. These characters should look as authentic as possible in dress and hand props. A screen can be used to project actual photographic images of the principles and places involved.)

(Lights up. On stage is a lone elderly black man, ninety years old or better, MR. WARD. He wears civilian clothes and the blue and gold cowboy hat of a cavalry soldier. Sitting on a metal lounge chair, he reclines on his front porch watching the neighborhood children play.) Observing his grand kids fighting, he stands correcting them with his cane.)

WARD

(Shouting into street.)

BOBBY! BOBBY! Ya'll break that up...ya'll need to stop all this fighting...understand...get along...ya'll sit down over there behave ya foolselves. Say it again, boy. What it this here on my hat? That's the first time you noticed that.

(Takes off hat, shows it to them.)

This here is the insignia of the Buffalo Soldier, see I was a Buffalo Soldier in the Tenth Cavalry stationed in Fort Leavenworth...Kansas...that's where the Buffalo Soldier originated from, right here in Kansas. (Aside.) That's also where they got the penitentiary.

(Points at kids.)

There was also the Ninth Cavalry, the Twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth Infantry, all soldiers, all negroes, ALL Buffalo Soldiers. Why they call us the Buffalo soldiers? Well...the people we fought, the Indians gives us that name...

(Photos of Buffalo soldiers, one wearing a buffalo coat.)

(STANCE, a black soldier appears.)

STANCE

The buffalo is a sacred creature, strong and fierce, difficult to kill. The Indians didn't like to fight us buffalo soldiers. I could never find out why. Col. Richard Dodge said all he ever got by way of explanation was: "Buffalo soldier no good...bad medicine."